

As the holiday shopping season kicks into high gear, stopping dangerous Chinese toys from entering the U.S. market must remain a top priority for the Congress. Earlier this year, U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-WA) and I introduced the bipartisan Import Safety Act of 2007. My legislation would increase support the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) by \$20 million to fund additional overseas testing and inspection.

Since we introduced the Import Safety Act, more and more dangerous imported toys from China have put American families at risk. This month alone the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued nine recall notices for hazardous toys made in China. Most significantly, on November 7, 2007, the CPSC recalled about 4.2 million toxic Aqua Dots after a 20-month old child swallowed several dots and slipped into a coma. We cannot wait around as dangerous toys hit America's shelves.

Today I sent a letter to Chairman Jose Serrano and Senator Dick Durbin – the chairmen of the key House and Senate committees that fund the CPSC – urging them to boost CPSC's funding level by another \$20 million for Fiscal Year 2008. I believe this increase should garner strong bipartisan and bicameral support. As we approach the House-Senate Conference on the Financial Services Appropriations bill, I will work with Chairman Serrano and Chairman Durbin to provide the critical resources needed to keep American families safe.